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PART II.

A REJOINDER

To Sundry  READERS.

BY JAMES POULSON.

 The Author is under particular obligations to the Public, for the honor they have conferred upon him, by their encouraging the publication of his Numbers; and begs leave to acquaint his Readers, that he has a Manuscript of the memorable Occurrences in the course of his Travels, in a tour of Nine Years in *Ireland*, and a visit to *Scotland*, including sundry Remarks during his residence in *Wales*; if they should be disposed to encourage the Publication by subscribing towards the expence attending it, the Author will complete the work in Three Sixpenny Numbers; to be delivered to Subscribers Monthly at Sixpence each.

A few evenings ago, before I had well finished *copying* my letters, the curtains of the evening were drawn around me, and I laid down my pen, wishing I had no further use for it upon this occasion; but necessity obliges me to resume it again; and I flatter myself every attentive, discerning reader will allow, that the fore-cited credentials are sufficient to *satisfy* every person of the greatest understanding, that they are sufficiently attested, and sufficiently grounded to gain the credit of every impartial reader. They were not written *three-score years ago*, nor out of the remembrance of the youngest reader, into whose hands these Numbers may come; and my *friends* joined their names without *shame*, and they are ready to defend it without *blushing*.

I told my readers before, that I have no claim to perfection; and while I keep a sincere and painful sense within me of my own *defects*, I still pursue and maintain an unchanging indignation to the false Accusations of my inveterate enemies. I confess I am ashamed at Captain Bu-n's meanness of soul, and grieved at his hardness of heart and uncharitableness, that the attestations of so many able Divines, and others of equal probity, should have no weight with him; while the false and disgusting reports of *two or three prejudiced men*, of doubtful character, are received, and believed, and propagated as truth by him. How unworthy is such a conduct! How unbecoming either a gentleman, a christian, or a man of sense: But I defy Capt. Bu-n and all my Accusers, to make *full proof* of one single breach of Truth knowingly, in any part of my conversation, nor breach of Justice and Integrity in any part of my conduct;

conduct; they may as easy make it appear, that the *sun-beams* are an *earthly clod*. It is this vicious principle of *malice* working in these men, that make them so much accustomed to accuse others of a different denomination; and this *growing evil* in them is big with misery and desolation; and that which is worst of all, it conceals itself too often from *conviction* and *reproof*, under the specious disguise of religion, while it practiceth all the secret mischiefs I have experienced from them; and I think I may say of such men, without any breach of charity, that they belong to the *Armoury of Fraud*, and to the *Magazine of Unrighteousness*; and if Capt. Bu-n, Greg. Warn-r, and Mr. J. S——n, would wish to see or read their character painted in bright and higher colours, and receive the *foulest* ideas of it in the *fairest* oratory, they cannot find a better description of themselves than in Paul's 2d of Timothy, chap. iii. ver. 3.

Who could have imagined it would have entered into the thoughts of Capt. Bu-n and Greg. Warn-r to devise so much mischief on their pillow, to dispatch letters after letters to *Scotland, Wales*, and other places, to *ravage* over the Author's character for more than *twenty years* back; and the far-fetch'd, forc'd, and *false Accusations* from two or three prejudiced men, whose character I have depicted in my last Number, hath furnished Capt. Bu-n and his Abettors with *triumph*, which has given me a kind of defiance or challenge to make my Defence; and, if Capt. Bu-n and the whole *fraternity* of his *bigotted priests*, can disprove my *Defence*, let them stand forth like men of *truth, honor, and honesty*. But, alas! they appear like a *snake* in the *grass*, and they shrink and vanish out of my sight like a vapor, which is an evident sign to the Public that their cause is bad, and few if any men of *worth* will be seen in a *bad cause*; but the Captain is not above it; for, it was
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but the other day, that Captain Bu-n and Greg. Warn-r threatened a poor labouring man with a prosecution, unless he would declare before them a known *falsehood* to be the *truth*, in order, if possible, to enable them to prosecute a respectable tradesman in *Strood*, for encouraging my publication; but the poor man told them, if they sent him to *prison* and to *death*, he would not declare a known falsehood to be true. What can my readers think of such men, let their pretensions to religion be what it will! Was it not mean and pitiful? yea, was it not malicious and unjust in them to compel a man by threats to declare a falsehood? I should not wonder if the *finger of scorn* was pointed at them in the streets for such conduct.

Let Captain Bu-n look back to the 20th of January, 1792, a very little recollection will convince him that he told me there, that day, that he had Accusations against me; and many false witnesses were called I confess; I was struck with silent confusion at the scene of knavery, malice, and falsehood that was practised there that evening; I lost the power of utterance; and, when I attempted to make any Defence, R. H—ll or Mr. W—ks, with sudden emotion, like men thrown into wild disorder and abruptness, either contradicted or interrupted my speech: But I am extremely happy that I am entitled by the *Civil Law* to the privilege of making my own Defence before the impartial Public, respecting the things whereof they accuse me; for which Defence my Accusers threaten to prosecute me, contrary to *Law*. What kind of professors of religion must these be, who threaten a man with a prosecution at Law, for making his Defence conformable to the *Law*.—The very *heathen* and *barbarian* nations would shudder and startle at such conduct!

Perhaps the attentive reader might be solicitous
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to know how Greg. Warn-r and Capt. Bu-n came to the knowledge of my inveterate enemies at *Haverfordwest*, from whom they obtained their packets of false accusations. There is no knavery nor wickedness too hard for Greg. W. He has been under tuition to the *Accuser of the Brethren* from his youth; and he has learnt the art of lying and deceiving, and he is a supposed *proficient* in all manner of subtilty; by which *knavish* skill he artfully deceived Mr. John Thom-s, of Haverfordwest. I cannot help thinking at times, but that wicked, unclean Spirit has some strange and unknown methods of access to him, and it will be well if he is not suffered to devour him at last.

The reader will take notice, I said in my last Number, that Mr. B. Jon-s, keeps a good table for Capt. J—— and R. H——. Gregory made use of this *stratagem*; and, through their combined, mischievous influence, and Capt. Bu-n, in consequence of his iniquitous letters, received his packets of false accusations, as Mr. John Thom-s informs me in his last letter to me January 14, 1792. He addresses me thus:

“There are several letters in Town concerning you, *two* to myself, *one* from Gregory Warn-r of *Strood*, who I find has been your very good friend; he addresses me on your account, and says, you do not strictly adhere to the truth, &c. and that you have cast an odium on my character in their Town; and that you do not abide by the truth, &c. The other letter is from a Captain Bu-n, much to the same purport.” This letter is too prolix to insert the whole; any person may see it at the Author’s house.

Here the attentive, discerning reader, may perceive as treacherous and as wicked a complicated scene of *villainy* and *barbarity* as ever was contrived
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by the *art* of man. The limits of my Number will not admit of my entering into every particular accusation; I think it will satisfy every impartial person, and I flatter myself the public will perfectly acquiesce with me, when I say, that the substance of the whole matter depends upon the *validity* and *authenticity* of the fore-cited letters: for, if the contents of Mr. John Thom-s's letters to Capt. B. and Greg. W. be true, then he must have witnessed on the 22d of November, 1790, to a falsehood, and thereby proved himself a *false-witness*, and gave a testimony to the public that he is a *double-minded* man. I think he has offered a much greater affront to himself by the purport of his letter to Capt. B. than he has offered to me; for, if he had known me to be a *liar* and an *unjust* man, why did he so readily sign the *reverse*? and, if his accusations were true, then all my other respectable friends of distinguished eminence in the town and county of Haverfordwest, must have signed their names to a falsehood also; but they are men tender of their *honor*, and tenacious to secure it, without the loss of their *innocence*; and they are not ashamed *still* to appear in the defence of my behaviour among them: they stand at a distance from these *herd* of false accusers, being conscious from their personal knowledge of the Author's Integrity; they joined their names to my Letter without the least hesitation. And is it reasonable to suppose, that persons of known *veracity*, who have adorned a Christian character upwards of *forty* years, would sign their names to a known falsehood? Would R. H—ll or Capt. J—— do it? Why then should these *blind* and *bigoted* men suspect the testimonials of others? A *confirmation* of the reality and authenticity of the contents of my letter from Haverfordwest has been sufficiently attested to Mr. P. Morgan, of *Strood*, and to his Friend, by persons of the

the first *eminence* in London. What a pity it is that these men should thus expose themselves and their profession to a *bye-word* among the people. Who would covet any connection with such an envious generation? If Mr. John Thom-s can *reconcile* what he attested November 22d, 1790, with what he wrote to Greg. Warn-r and Capt. Bu-n in January, 1792, the public may credit his accusations against me; but he may as well strike *fire* out of *ice*! and I defy him or any others to prove any breach of Truth and Justice in any part of my conduct!

With regard to their contemptible and sly reproach respecting my illicit conduct in adjusting the late Mrs. Blundel's affairs, I flatter myself it will suffice the impartial reader, when I assure the public, that *Joseph Fortune*, Esq. whose name is prefixed to my letter, was a principal creditor to the late Mrs. Blundel's estate and effects: and, is it reasonable to suppose, as he was upon the spot, and an eye-witness to my transactions in adjusting that business, that he would have attested my letter with the sanction of his name, if I had acted a fraudulent part? It cannot be. Every attentive, modest reader, who can exercise his pen, has a fair address to any of the gentlemen, if they wish for further satisfaction.

With regard to my disposing of a few articles of *Lumber* to the amount of about *thirty shillings* near three weeks before I left Haverfordwest, Mr. Thom-s approved and acquiesced with me in that business; but if any valuable articles had been sold and removed out of the house in a fraudulent manner to injure him, why did he sign my letter but a day or two before I left the town? He offered me any money I wished to accept to assist me on my journey; nor could there be a greater intimacy subsisting than there were between us, until Greg. Warn-r and Cap. Bu-n dispatched their false and malicious letters to
prejudice

prejudice his mind against me. Nor is it easy for me to ascertain the loss in my substance which I left in Mr. Thom-s's hands to dispose of for me, through Capt. Bu-n and Greg. Warne-'s wicked and false letters to him to prejudice me; for, instead of his transmitting me an account of what was made of my house and furniture, he inclosed such an account as he thought proper to Greg. Warn-r, and referred me to my Adversary for a sight of the balance of my account due to me from him. I wish Capt. Bu-n would publish the Letters which they have received, that the Public might be able to form a judgement from the diction of their letters, what kind of persons they are who have so falsely accused me.

I proceed to my last Letter to certify the reverse of Mr. James S-mpf-'s accusations, viz. that I was at his house at *Bolton* in *April 1787*, &c.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed, do certify and declare, that Mr. James Poulson resided our next door neighbour upwards of five years; during which time he never absented himself from his home and school more than a week at a time; and to our knowledge we never heard him speak of going to *Bolton* or *Manchester*, and the time of his absence from home was in the month of *January only*. Your friends are well convinced of the falsehood of Mr. J. S-mpf-'s accusations. Attested this 14th day of January, 1792.

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 John Thomas, William Davies,
 George Jenkins, Solom. Mary Church,
 Stephen George, George Summers."

Thus my Accusers may see how much I despise them; and that it is as light a matter for me to encounter the whole of them, as it was for *Deliah* to dally with *Samson* when his locks were shorn, and when his strength was departed from him.

No. VII. will contain, Sentimental Remarks, selected from *Antiquity*, &c.